

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A composition comprising the peptide:
Y-W-S-A₁-C-S-A₂-C-G-Z (SEQ ID NO: 9)
wherein Y and Z comprise:
~~(a) —N and C terminal ends of the peptide;~~
(a) (b) amino acid chains consisting of ~~less than 0-6~~ amino acids; or
(b) (e) chains of compounds which are not amino acids,
wherein A₁ and A₂ are amino acid sequences comprising 1 to 5 amino acids
(SEQ ID NOS: 97-168) and further wherein the peptide is not selected from the group
consisting of one of the following sequences: ~~sentences~~:
-W-S-P-C-S-V-T-C-G- (SEQ ID NO:2),
-W-S-S-C-S-V-T-C-G- (SEQ ID NO:3), and
-W-S-Q-C-S-V-T-C-G- (SEQ ID NO:4).
2. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein
said A₁ is Pro or -X₁-W-X₂-X₃- (SEQ ID NO:5), X₁, X₂, and X₃ being chosen, independently
of each other, from G, S and C, denoted SEQ ID NOS:50-59.
3. (Currently amended) The composition according to claim 2, wherein
said A₁ is -X₁-W-S-X₃-, denoted SEQ ID NOS:6 and SEQ ID NOS:60-64.
4. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein
said A₂ is selected from the group consisting of -R-S-, -V-S-, and -V-T-, denoted SEQ ID
NOS:65-88.
5. (Currently amended) The composition according to claim 3, wherein
said peptide is ~~comprises at least~~ the following amino acid sequence:
-W-S-X₁-W-S-X₃-C-S- A₂-C-G-, denoted SEQ ID NOS:7 and SEQ ID
NOS:89-96, wherein, X₁ and X₃ are independently selected from G, S and C.

6. (Currently amended) The composition according to claim 4, wherein said peptide is ~~comprises~~ the following amino acid sequence:

-W-S-G-W-S-S-C-S-R-S-C-G- (SEQ ID NO:8).

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition comprising a peptide according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

9 – 12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) An additive for culturing nerve cells, comprising a peptide according to claim 1.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A peptide having ~~at least~~ the following amino acid sequence:

-W-S-G-W-S-S-C-S-R-S-C-G- (SEQ ID NO:8).

17. (Currently amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition comprising a peptide according to claim 16 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

18. (Canceled)

19 – 21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) An additive for culturing nerve cells, comprising a peptide according to claim 16.

23. (Canceled)